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SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: REPORT ON VISIT OF DEL ON S&T
INFORMATION-COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT (01.1001)

1. SUMMARY- SUBJECT DEL'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT AUGERS WELL FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF AGREED COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT BY MID-
1978. DELEGATION TOOK SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF SOVIET EFFORTS
IN S&T INFORMATION AND COMES TO CONCLUSION THAT SOVIETS WILL
CATCH THE U.S. IN THIS AREA IN FIVE YEARS AND THEN RAPIDLY
SURPASS US. THESE DELEGATION CONCLUSIONS ARE SUGGESTED FOR
ATTENTION OF U.S.G. SCIENCE POLICY OFFICES. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE MEMBERS OF SUBJECT USDEL MET ON EVE OF THEIR DEPART-
URE WITH EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICERS TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF DEL-
EGATION'S VISIT. ACCORDING TO DELEGATION, SOVIETS WERE
MOST FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION AND ACCESS, AND TECHNICAL
SPECIALIST ON DELEGATION WAS REPORTEDLY FIRST AMERICAN EVER TO
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SEE ONE COMPUTER CENTER USED IN S&T INFORMATION RESEARCH. HE
WORKED THERE FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE
SOVIET COMPUTER EXPERTS, WHOM U.S. SPECIALISTS FOUND HIGHLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE, COMPETENT, AND DEDICATED. DURING VISIT, SOVIETS
AND AMERICANS REACHED ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT ON 14-AREA TECHNICAL
PROGRAM INCORPORATING MANY SPECIFIC DETAILS. SYSTEM IS VARIANT
OF "UNIMARC," (UNIVERSA MACHINE READABLE CATALOGUE SYSTEM) AND

BRINGS NEARER THE DAY WHEN U.S. CENTERS CAN ACCESS SOVIET INFORMATION. DELEGATION NOTED THAT THIS COOPERATIVE PROJECT IS MERELY BUILDING THE "INFORMATION TUBE" FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN INFORMATION EXCHANGE; OTHERS WILL DECIDE WHAT GOES IN IT. DELEGATION ALSO OBSERVED THAT AGREED COMMON COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT COULD WELL BENEFIT U.S. MORE THAN USSR: SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE ACCESS TO U.S. S&T INFORMATION, WHICH IS WIDESPREAD; U.S. WOULD GAIN FACILITATION IN ACCESS TO SOVIET MATERIALS.

3. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF DELEGATION HAD VISITED USSR IN 1974, AND THEY WERE HIGHLY SURPRISED BY PROGRESS WHICH SOVIETS HAVE MADE IN SYSTEMS FOR HANDLING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SINCE THEN. DELEGATION NOTED THAT TWO YEARS AGO SOVIET HANDLING OF S&T INFORMATION WAS AT BEST HIGHLY PRIMITIVE, BUT THAT THEY WERE STRUCK AT THE TIME BY THE ACCELERATING QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF EFFORT GOING INTO THE SOVIET ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH. DELEGATION NOTED IN 1975 THAT SOVIETS WERE TREATING S&T INFORMATION IN COHERENT MANNER WITH APPARENT HEAVY FUNDING (KIEV S&T INFORMATION CENTER, ALREADY WITH STAFF OF 4000 IN 1975, IS TO REACH 10,000 BY 1980). IMPRESSION WAS THAT SOVIETS WERE ATTEMPTING TOTAL SYSTEMS APPROACH BY MAJOR FUNNELING OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT INTO S&T INFORMATION. DELEGATION HEARD THAT SUBSTANTIAL PUSH IS BEING GIVEN THIS EFFORT BY SCST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI (TO WHOM SOVIET WORKING-GROUP CHAIRMAN ARUTYUNOV REPORTS).

4. DELEGATION FEELS THAT SOVIET EFFORT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO BEAR FRUIT AND THAT, IF EFFORTS CONTINUE APACE, SOVIETS WILL EQUAL U.S. S&T INFORMATION CAPABILITIES IN LESS THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIVE YEARS AND WILL THEN RAPIDLY SURPASS U.S. CAPABILITIES. DELEGATION BELIEVES SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE ACHIEVED STATUS OF "NO BACKWARDNESS IN HARDWARE," AND THAT THE ES-1030 PRODUCTION-LINE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IS FULLY CAPABLE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC TASKS. SOVIET S&T INFORMATION DIRECTORS NOW CLAIM NO PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING HARDWARE, AND CENTERS IN GEORGIAN AND UZBEK REPUBLICS ARE PRESENTLY REORGANIZING FOR CONVERSION TO AUTOMATED HANDLING. UZBEK CENTER ALREADY HAS ON MICROFICHE ENTIRE U.S. PATENT COLLECTION, AND HAD RECEIVED ITS ES-SERIES COMPUTER THE WEEK BEFORE THE DELEGATION ARRIVED. DELEGATION WAS STRUCK BY HOW WELL THE REGIONAL CENTERS ARE INFORMED AND COORDINATED IN THE HIGHLY CENTRALIZED EFFORT. IN TECHNICAL AREAS, DELEGATION NOTED THAT (A) SOVIET SYSTEMS CONTAIN COMPONENTS FROM FIVE CEMA COUNTRIES, AND THAT THEIR COMPATIBILITY IS REFLECTIVE OF HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION; (B) THE MINSK-3040 THEY SAW WAS, FOR S&T INFORMATION PURPOSES, "AN EXCELLENT MACHINE"; (C) THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE (VINITI) IS WORKING WITH TAPE DRIVES AND DISCS, AND HAS NOW ON ORDER LARGER-CAPACITY DISCS; AND (D) SOVIET EXPERTS WERE ABLE TO SUGGEST SIGNIFICANT

IMPROVEMENT IN MAGNETIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM USED IN U.S.-SOVIET
TAPE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

5. DELEGATION CONTRASTED SOVIET PROGRESS WITH STATIC SITUATION
IN U.S.: ACCORDING TO DELEGATION, U.S. IS STILL AHEAD OF USSR
IN A NUMBER OF FACETS OF AUTOMATIC HANDLING OF S&T INFORMATION,
BUT U.S. EFFORTS LACK DIRECTION, FUNDING AND GOVERNMENT POLICY-
LEVEL SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL LONG-ESTABLISHED AMERICAN
S&T INFORMATION SYSTEMS (E.G., CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS), WERE
ORIGINALLY NOT SET UP TO GO TO AUTOMATED FORMAT, AND THE MAJOR
REORGANIZATION NECESSARY FOR AUTOMATION IS NOT BEING DONE.

6. COMMENT. THIS AREA OF COOPERATION NOW SEEMS TO BE MOVING
AS SCHEDULED AND DELEGATION WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT COMMON
COMMUNICATIONS FORMAT WILL BE AGREED BY MID-1978. EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THE ACCESS PROVIDED TO THIS DELEGATION
UNDER THE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION
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ON AN IMPORTANT AREA WHERE THIS DELEGATION BELIEVES THE SOVIETS
ARE GOING TO SURPASS US. OUR CONTINUED RESEARCH-AND-DEVELOPMENT
PROWESS DEPENDS UPON OUR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION
SYSTEM, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN THE FINEST IN THE WORLD. WE THEREFORE
BELIEVE THAT THIS DELEGATION'S CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE EXAMINED
BY INTERESTED U.S. AGENCIES SUCH AS OSTP.
IN MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS. U.S. LEADERSHIP IN A NUMBER OF AREAS
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COULD SUFFER ADVERSE EFFECTS
IN U.S. LOST LEAD IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION,
THE FEAR THIS DELEGATION EXPRESSED.

7. WE THEREFORE CREDIT THIS DELEGATION WITH SIGNALLING
THIS POSSIBLE PROBLEM, AND NOTE THAT SUCH SPIN-OFF CONTRI-
BUTIONS ARE A MAJOR AND RELATIVELY UNHERALDED BENEFIT
TO THE U.S. OF OUR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION.
TOON

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